

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Science Advisory Board

Emergency Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meetings

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that several Committees of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on the dates and times described below. All times noted are Eastern Time. All meetings are open to the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis. Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office and are not available from the SAB Office. Public drafts of SAB reports are available to the Agency and the public from the SAB office. Details on availability are noted below.

1. Drinking Water Committee (DWC)

The Drinking Water Committee (DWC) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will hold a public meeting beginning at 8:00 am Thursday, December 10, 1998 and ending not later than 5:30 pm Friday, December 11, 1998. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202; telephone (703) 418-1234. At this meeting, the Committee will receive briefings on the status of various research efforts being conducted in support of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments (SDWA) of 1996 and conduct a review of the US EPA ORD comparative risk approach for balancing the chemical and microbial risks from drinking water.

Background - In accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), regulations

have been promulgated or proposed by U.S. EPA to provide maximum control of exposures to pathogenic organisms in water while minimizing concomitant exposures to the disinfection byproducts (DBPs). The SDWA Amendments of 1996 additionally require the Agency to conduct cost-benefit analyses of the regulatory impacts in order to identify cost-effective drinking water treatment options.

The National Center for Environmental Assessment-Cincinnati Office (NCEA-Cin) has developed a methodology for risk analysis and comparison that might assist the Agency in supporting its SDWA regulatory activities. The Agency's document *Comparative Risk Framework Methodology and Case Study (Framework Document)* presents a methodology for such comparisons that applies the prevention-effectiveness approach developed by the Centers for Disease Control for structuring and analyzing this complex risk trade-off problem. Prevention-effectiveness research combines tools of decision and economic analysis to look at the cost-effectiveness of different public health interventions and employs decision trees to explicitly and graphically structure the problem. The document consists of a Comparative Risk Framework Methodology (CRFM) and a Case Study. The application of this approach explicitly recognizes disinfection and treatment of drinking water to be a primary public health intervention and prevention measure designed to minimize the transmission of microbial pathogens in drinking water.

Charge: The Drinking Water Committee is requested to review the strategy proposed for structuring and analyzing this comparative risk/risk tradeoff problem, including the overall concept, the use of population-based probabilities for expressing both cancer and noncancer health risks and mechanisms for arriving at these numbers, and the pros and cons of the

different common metrics/weights proposed for comparing qualitatively and quantitatively different health risks. Specific charge questions are available by contacting the Office of the Science Advisory Board at the address noted below. Charge questions are included for the following areas: overall approach; the comparative risk framework methodology; the case study; engineering and water treatment issues; risk characterization; microbial risks; chemical dose-response assessment; exposure; health conditions; the common health metric; the results of the methods application; and research needs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Single copies of the background information for the review of the risk comparison framework can be obtained by contacting Dr. Glenn Rice, US EPA National Center for Environmental Assessment, 26 Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268; or by telephone at (513) 569-7813. Additional information for this meeting, or the meeting agenda, can be obtained by contacting Mr. Thomas O. Miller, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Drinking Water Committee, Science Advisory Board (1400), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460; by telephone at (202)260-5886; by fax at (202) 260-7118 or via the E-Mail at: miller.tom@epa.gov, or by contacting Ms. Dorothy Clark at (202) 260-6555, by fax at (202) 260-7118, and by E-Mail at: clark.dorothy@epa.gov. Anyone wishing to make an oral presentation to the Committee must contact Mr. Miller, in writing (by letter, fax, or E-mail) no later than 12 noon, Thursday, December 3, 1998, in order to be included on the Agenda. The request should identify the name of the individual who will make the presentation and an outline of the issues to be addressed. At least 35 copies of any written comments to the Committee are to be given to Mr. Miller no later than the time of the presentation for distribution to the Committee and the interested public.

Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings

The Science Advisory Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements. In general, each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of ten minutes. For teleconference meetings, opportunities for oral comment will usually be limited to no more than three minutes per speaker and no more than fifteen minutes total. Written comments (at least 35 copies) received in the SAB Staff Office sufficiently prior to a meeting date (usually one week before the meeting), may be mailed to the relevant SAB committee or subcommittee; comments received too close to the meeting date will normally be provided to the committee at its meeting, or mailed soon after receipt by the Agency. Written comments may be provided to the relevant committee or subcommittee up until the time of the meeting.

Additional information concerning the Science Advisory Board, its structure, function, and composition, may be found on the SAB Website (<http://www.epa.gov/sab>) and in *The Annual Report of the Staff Director* which is available from the SAB Publications Staff at (202) 260-4126 or via fax at (202) 260-1889. Individuals requiring special accommodation at SAB meetings, including wheelchair access, should contact the appropriate DFO at least five business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

John R. Fowle, III, Ph.D.
Acting Staff Director,
Science Advisory Board

Date: 11/25/98